

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) The electrical socket as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein each terminal comprises a bridging portion extending from ~~[[the]]~~ a locating plate for connecting the mating beam to the locating plate.
3. (original) The electrical socket as claimed in claim 2, wherein the mating beam comprises an upper connecting portion oriented above the bridging portion and a lower connecting portion oriented below the bridging portion.
4. (original) The electrical socket as claimed in claim 3, wherein the mating beams are parallel to and spaced apart from each other in the same row, and the upper connecting portion of each mating beam extends through and locates above the lower connecting portion of the adjacent mating beam.
5. (original) The electrical socket as claimed in claim 4, wherein each terminal further comprises a mating portion defined on the upper connecting portion of the terminal for contacting with a corresponding electrode of an associated electronic package.
6. (original) The electrical socket as claimed in claim 5, wherein each terminal further comprises a planar horizontal soldering base at a distal end thereof, for soldering to a circuit pad of a printed circuit board.
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended) The electrical socket as claimed in claim ~~[[7]]~~ 18, wherein each passageway comprises an upper retention portion and two lower retention portions for retaining the corresponding terminal.

9. (original) The electrical socket as claimed in claim 8, wherein each locating plate of the terminal comprises an upper barb on one side thereof for interferentially engaging with the upper retention portion, and two lower barbs on two opposite sides thereof for interferentially engaging with the two lower retention portions.

10. (canceled) .

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) An electrical socket comprising:

a dielectric housing; and

a plurality of terminals assembled in the housing in rows and each having an elongated mating beam extending along a predetermined direction such that the mating beams are parallel to each other; wherein

each of the mating beams can deflect from an initial position to a final position; and

each two adjacent mating beams in the same row define a first vertical distance therebetween in the initial position, and define a second vertical

distance therebetween in the final position, the second vertical distance being less than the first vertical distance; wherein

each of said mating beams essentially extends away from a corresponding passageway, in which the corresponding terminal is located and retained, in a lateral direction and substantially invades a space above an adjacent passageway, in which the adjacent terminal is located and retained, and the mating beam of said adjacent terminal is under the mating beam of the corresponding terminal.

19. (canceled)